

Weekly Column for January 17, 2008

Everybody seems to talking about the Giants this week, and the big game coming up this weekend. And Mother Nature is getting in a Green Bay mode as well. We have a nasty storm allegedly heading our way Friday (please drive carefully, if the forecasters actually have this one right), and then some frigid temperatures for the weekend.

But just because it's cold does not mean that you need to stay inside. Take the opportunity this weekend to get out into downtown and see what's happening. One place you must stop is the Farmer's Market, which has a different feel to it during the winter than the summer series does. For those that don't know (shame on you), the Farmer's Market does indeed operate 12 months a year, calling the Atrium home during the winter months.

There is something about heading inside and the controlled chaos that exists amongst the vendors and their patrons that warms your heart. Whether it's the cooking, the music, or the locally grown produce being sold, it feels like a community, and you cannot ask for more than that on a cold winter day.

On the news front this week, we picked up a tremendous grant award from New York State as part of the Restore NY Program. Though the state only issued \$25 million in grants to downstate communities (of which we are considered a part of in the Economic Development front), we received \$2.5 million for waterfront bookend projects in the Hedley District and the future demolition of City Hall. That's ten percent of the entire pot!

We are obviously thrilled that Governor Eliot Spitzer and his staff, with support from Senator Joseph L. Bruno, saw the benefits of the potential move of City Hall. It was also nice from a personal end to see receive the news several months after we endured an election season in which we were accused of not filing an application for the grant.

The benefits of future waterfront development are obviously plentiful, and there is no doubt that this money, which is your money, will help leverage millions of dollars in additional investment along the Hudson River.

One final note- one week early. Next Friday is the first Troy Night Out of the year. Be there, or be square.

Have a warm weekend, and Go Giants!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy